



ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook
St Thomas Aberdeen



We acknowledge the traditional owners who cared for this land for thousands of years and their descendants who have maintained these spiritual connections and traditions

PARISH CONTACTS

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Website:

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5th Sunday in Easter – YEAR A

3rd May 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 4 th May	Tuesday 5 th May	Wednesday 6 th May	Thursday 7 th May	Friday 8 th May	Saturday 9 th May	Sunday 10 th May
						6th Sunday of Easter
		9.00am Mass St James Church	11.30 am Mass Adoration & Benediction St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church 5.30 pm Vigil Mass St James Church	10.00 am Mass St James Church
	5.00 pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 10th May 2026

2 nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S.E. Bernard	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	J Dallah	T Hobbs	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G Griffin M Shanahan	M Kelly	C Kelly		Jane and Stephen Thatcher	Stella Liam	J. Grenfell

MASS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ: Beate Shanahan, James McGrath, Mick Chisolm, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borress, Paul Carey, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman and Kym Mason.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Nigel James Burke.

Baptisms:

Privacy Laws. All parishioners are encouraged to pray for the sick. Masses will be offered on request. Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family

St James and St Thomas - Pray for Us

BULLETIN Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au. The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook** Please email muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

SAFEGUARDING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY Please visit our 'Safeguarding' page to access a range of safeguarding resources: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/ Muswellbrook Parish Promotor of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs (Contact via Parish Office).

"Our mission is to spread the Kingdom by being an alive and informed Community, united as one family in care and consideration for each other in the love of God."

ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch

Pentecost Sunday | 24 May, 2-5pm | The Factory Theatre, Trinity College Adamstown

Witness how the Holy Spirit is moving in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as we launch ALIVE - a dynamic and exciting event that will showcase a new diocesan identity for young people that seeks to draw them into a personal relationship with Christ they feel confident to share with others. Music will be led by a nationally acclaimed worship team and a number of exciting plans will be announced alongside some good news stories of where ALIVE is already taking shape in schools and parishes. Please visit the Diocesan events page to secure your free seat. All ages are welcome - [Events - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#).



FIRE UP MINISTRIES

Behold Your Mother:
Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

FRIDAYS, 8TH - 29TH MAY

6:30 PM - HOLY ROSARY
7:00 PM - TALK

Mackillop Parish
7 Milson Street Charlestown

With 
Simon Carrington

NOT COMPULSORY
A suggested donation of \$20 per talk is appreciated and includes refreshments


Scan to Register



You are invited to a:

Fishing Weekend

God for Blokes

10-12 July 2026
Beach fishing Forster

for more information
and registration: trybooking.com/DLPKG





PRAYER FOR RAIN

Dear God, we ask You with humble hearts, seeking Your divine intervention for rain to nourish our parched land. We recognize that all creation depends on Your mercy and grace. As we face the drought, we ask that You send rain to replenish our crops, fill our rivers, and restore our ecosystem. Help us to trust in Your timing and remain steadfast in faith, knowing that You provide for all our needs. We pray that this rain may be a blessing, not just for us but for all living beings. Let it remind us of Your unfailing love and provision. We ask this through Risen Christ our Lord, Amen.

Called & Gifted - Registrations Closing Soon

What if God has placed gifts within you that are still waiting to be discovered? Over the past year, people across our Diocese stepped into the Called & Gifted Discernment Process and discovered something powerful, a deeper awareness of their charisms, a renewed sense of purpose, and new confidence in how they live and share their faith. *"It was a life-giving experience that helped me see my faith and my gifts in a completely new way ... Called & Gifted opened my eyes to possibilities I hadn't considered before ... This journey is too valuable to keep to a small group, I hope many more people will have the opportunity to experience it."* This is not simply a program. It is a process of prayer, reflection and discernment that helps you recognise how the Holy Spirit is already working through your life, often in ways you may not yet fully see or name. Learn More: [Expressions of Interest for the 2026 Called & Gifted](#)



2026
National Count of Attendance
YOU ARE COUNTED ON

This May, the Australian Catholic Church participates in the National Count of Attendance.

Every Parish, every Mass, every body.
Help us accurately plan for the future.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father’s house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?’

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

‘I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.’

Communion Antiphon Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: ‘Let not your hearts be troubled.’

Why shouldn’t their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord’s physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: ‘By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to *share* in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to *share* in our humanity.’

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can *share* in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: ‘God became human so that humans might become God.’

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: ‘We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.’

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!